

SN. 10/787,534

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. YAMA:065

IN THE CLAIMS*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, for practicing musical instrument comprising:

a model music data input device which inputs model music data containing performance data representing a musical performance which coincides with a music score of a model music piece for practice, performance data prepared for playing back tones of said model music piece for practice, and wherein said model music data containing music score display data representing a music score to be displayed of said model music piece for practice to be displayed; and said apparatus further comprising:

a tone generator which plays back tones according to performance data supplied thereto;

a display device;

a music score display controlling device which controls said display device to display said music score of said model music piece for practice according to said music score display data and to display at least one of a guidance for inputting a performance of said model music piece for practice by the user or an evaluation of the performance by the user with respect to said music score of said model music piece;

a performance data inputting device which inputs performance data representing user's manipulation for a musical performance;

a performance data takeout device; and

a practice mode switching device which switches on and off the performance data takeout device,

wherein when said practice mode switching device switches off said performance data takeout device, said performance data takeout device takes out said performance data prepared for playing back tones of said model music piece for practice, to be supplied to said tone generator, and

wherein when said practice mode switching device switches on said performance data takeout device, said performance data takeout device takes out said performance data representing the musical performance which coincides with said music score of said model music piece for at least one of practice as reference data for said performance input guidance for the user or said evaluation of the user's performance.

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4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storing device storing a computer program containing program instructions executable by a computer for a user to practice practicing a musical instrument, said computer being connected to a tone generator and to a display device, and said program causing said computer to execute including:

a model music data input-step of module for inputting model music data containing performance data representing a musical performance which coincides with a music score of a model music piece for practice, and performance data particularly prepared for playing back tones of said model music piece for practice, and a music score to be displayed for practice;

a display module for controlling a display device to display said music score of said model music piece for practice according to said music score display data and to display at least one of a guidance for inputting a performance of said model music piece for practice by the user or an evaluation of the performance by the user with respect to the music score of said model music piece;

a performance data input-step of module for inputting performance data representing user's manipulation for a musical performance;

a practice mode switching step of module for switching on and off a practice mode for the apparatus; and

a performance data takeout-step of module for, in case said practice mode is switched off by said practice mode switching device, taking out said performance data particularly prepared for playing back tones of said model music piece for practice to be supplied to said a tone generator when the practice mode is switched off, and in case said practice mode is switched on by said practice mode switching device, taking out said performance data representing said musical performance which coincides with said music score of said model music piece for at least one of practice as reference data to be supplied to said display device for a performance input guidance for the user [(and/)] or an evaluation of the user's performance when the practice mode is switched on.